(b) if so, what steps Government are proposing to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) A request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to waive the outstanding interest of Rs. 663 crores accrued during VIII Plan in respect of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited has been received in the Ministry of Coal. This is part of an overall rehabilitation plan submitted by the Company. The proposal is under examination.

Incidence in Coal Mines

4292. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Society for Participating Research in Asia has studied the incidence of Pnumoconiosis in coal mines;

(b) if so, the detail of the findings of the study; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce incidence of this disease in coal mines in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) This Ministry and its formations are not aware of any such study conducted by the Society for Participating Research in Asia for the incidence of Pnumoconiosis in coal mines.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) The disease is commonly known to be a reaction of the human body to excessive exposure to coal dust. In order to reduce exposure to coal dust measures to reduce the dust exposure have been laid down under the Coal Mines Regulations 1957, framed under the Mines Act, 1952. These give the maximum permissible limits of dust exposure, the technical guidelines for conducting airborne dust survey, the measures to be taken when the airborne dust content approaches the limits or crosses the limits and general measures for dust suppression to be undertaken in Coal Mines in India. These regulations are implemented in the mines of Coal India Limited. Under the relevant provisions of the Mines Rules 1955, medical examination of all workmen employed in coal mines is done once in every five years. In course of such examination known as periodic medical examination (PME) workers are subjected to radiological and pathological examination and such examination reveals the effecct of dust.

Coal India Limited has set up medical facilities with most advanced equipment operated by trained personnel. For this purpose 82 PME Centres have been provided and 49 Nos. International Labour Organisation standard X-Ray film sets provided for comparing with the X-Ray plates of workmen. Ninety four doctors have been especially trained for this purpose, out of whom fifty have been trained in U.K.

Recruitment in MCC Ltd.

4293. SHRI BHAGBAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recruitment taken place since the formation of Mahanadi Coal Company Ltd. (MCCL) in its coal fields;

(b) the year-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the local youths are not being given employment in that Company as compared to the appointment being given to the outsiders who do not belong to Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Details of recruitments made in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited since its formation i.e., from 3.4.92 to 30.12.97 are as under:—

Jr. Overman/Mining Sirdar	92
Mine Surveyor/Surveyor (Trainee)	9
Foreman/Diploma Holder	86
Overseer (Civil)	6
Stenographer	19
Clerk/Typist	11
Jr. Technical Inspector	4
Driver	25
Security Guard	3
Accountant	8
Para Medical staff	66
HEMM operator	157
Technician ITI	564
TOTAL	1050

(b) Yearwise details are given below:—

Period	No. of recruitment made
1992	43
1993	360
1994	173
1995	45
1996	365
1997	64
TOTAL	1,050

(c) No, Sir.

Women workers in coal mines

4294. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of women workers in coal mines has declined during the last ten years;

(b) if so, the details of such decline year by year;

(c) the reasons for such a decline;

(d) whether the Coal India Limited has adopted a policy to discourage employment of women in coal mines; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of women workers, year-wise, are as under:—

Year (as on 1st April)	No. of female workers
1988	45,657
1989	44,522
1990	43,879
1991	43,840
1992	43,672
1993	43,896
1994	44,123
1995	43,128
1996	37,438
1997	37,049
1998	36,316

(c) The main reasons for decline in women workers in coal mines are as under :—

1. Superannuation;
2. Female employees generally prefer their eligible sons to be employed in their places. Such employment was permitted under Speical Female Voluntary Retirement Scheme which had been introduced in the subsidiary companies for a limited period;
3. On the death or permanent disability during employment of a female employee, normally male dependent is nominated for employment;
4. The female employees also opt for voluntary retirement under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply given to (d) above.

चीन द्वारा हार्ड कोक का पाटन

4295. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र** : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चीन द्वारा हार्ड कोक के पाटन (डंपिंग) के करण मै॰ भारत केकिंग कोल लिमिटेड पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इससे कितनी हार्ड कोक खुली खानें बन्द हुई हैं और बी॰सी॰सी॰एल॰ को कितनी हानि हुई है, और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा कोक के पाटन (डंपिंग) को रोकने के लिए क्य कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय): (क) जी, हां। भा॰को॰को॰लि॰ द्वारा उत्पादित कोक की मांग घट गई थी जिसके परिणाम स्वरूप अपने बहुत अधिक स्टॉक के जमा न होने देने के लिए कंपनी को अपने उत्पादन में कटौती करनी पड़ी।

(ख) अप्रैल, 1995 से मार्च, 1996 तक भा॰को॰को॰लि॰ में चरणबद्ध रूप में 68 बीहाइव ओवन बंद करने पड़े। इससे उत्पादन की हानि, लगभग 1900 टन प्रति माह होगी।

(ग) वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में पदनामित प्राधिकारी के निष्कर्षों एवं सिफारिशों के अनुसरण में चीन में उत्पादित अथवा उनके द्वारा निर्यात किए गए धातुकर्मीय केक के